

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to express my overwhelming support of HB 5499 An Act Authorizing Sunday Hunting on Private Land. As the hustle and bustle of everyday life continues to grow more demanding, just making ends meet is tough for many Connecticut residents. Often times, this means that people are forced to work on Saturday to make extra money and hence many outdoorsmen and women are not able to hunt as often as they'd like. Not only are current outdoorsmen and women impacted by the ban on Sunday hunting, but it hurts hunter recruitment by only having half of the weekend available to hunters; less time afield for mentoring, less time for new hunters to learn, etc.

Allowing Sunday hunting not only gives more opportunity for hunters to be afield, but it also gives CT DEEP a more robust wildlife management tool, after all, wildlife management is one of the main roles of hunting. Handicapping CT DEEP biologists' ability to manage wildlife by effectively eliminating half of the weekend hunting days simply does not make sense.

In addition to the above points, consider that many Connecticut hunters purchased out of state licenses in New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island just to have the opportunity to hunt on Sunday. Wouldn't it be best to keep those dollars in this state? If Connecticut hunters are not forced to pursue out of state Sunday hunting opportunities they are likely spend more money in the state which can help with our current budget shortfall.

Ultimately, there is no reason to ban hunting on Sunday. Blue laws are obsolete holdovers from yesteryear that need to be modernized. Sunday hunting is allowed by just about all other states except 3 (of which CT is one of them). They have been very successful in other just as well with no infringement on anybody else's outdoor activities.

Please show your support for our outdoorsmen and women and keeping hunting license revenue in our state by supporting SB 522.

Thanks,

Eric Schupp